

What is claimed is:

1. A method for auto-associating a medical device with a patient, comprising:

- 5   equipping a patient with a patient transmitter/receiver chip  
      having a patient ID number, capable of short-range  
      transmission;  
supplying a medical device equipped with a device  
      transmitter/receiver chip, capable of short-range  
10   transmission;  
placing the medical device and the patient in proximity;  
transmitting a request for patient ID command to the patient  
      transmitter/receiver chip from the device  
      transmitter/receiver chip;  
15   transmitting the patient ID number to the device  
      transmitter/receiver chip from the patient  
      transmitter/receiver chip; and  
sending the patient ID number to a medication management unit from  
      the medical device.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
associating the medical device only to the patient based on the  
patient ID number sent to the medication management unit.

- 25   3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
dissociating the medical device from the patient based on a command  
from a user.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: matching  
30   the patient ID number with a medication order prescribed for a  
patient at the medication management unit.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a first medical device and the device transmitter/receiver chip is a first device transmitter/receiver chip, and further comprising the steps of:

- 5 placing a second medical device in proximity to the patient;  
supplying the first device transmitter/receiver chip with a first device ID number, and the second device transmitter/receiver chip with a second device ID number;
- transmitting a request for device ID command to the second device
- 10 transmitter/receiver chip from the first device transmitter/receiver chip;
- transmitting the second device ID number to the first device transmitter/receiver chip from the second device transmitter/receiver chip; and
- 15 placing the second device ID number in a memory of the first medical device.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: sending the patient ID number from the first medical device to the second

20 medical device.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising locking the medical devices to a specific patient ID number and not associating the medical devices with another patient ID.

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprising locking the patient ID with a specific medical device and not associating the patient ID with other medical devices.

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: associating the medical devices only to the patient based on the patient ID number sent to the medication management unit.

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10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:  
dissociating the medical devices from the patient based on a  
command from a user.

5 11. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: matching  
the patient ID number with a medication order prescribed for a  
patient at the medication management unit.

12. A medication management system for auto-associating a medical  
10 device with a patient, comprising:

a patient transmitter/receiver chip having a patient ID number,  
capable of short-range transmission and adapted to be secured  
to a patient;

a medical device having a device transmitter/receiver chip capable  
15 of short-range transmission, a processor and a memory coupled  
to the processor, the memory containing programming code  
executed by the processor to:

transmit a request for patient ID command to the patient  
transmitter/receiver chip from the device  
20 transmitter/receiver chip, and  
send any patient ID number received by the medical device to  
a medication management unit; and

wherein the patient transmitter/receiver chip transmits the  
patient ID number to the device transmitter/receiver chip in  
25 response to the request for patient ID command when the  
patient transmitter/receiver chip is within proximity to the  
medical device sufficient to receive the request for patient  
ID command.

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